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DOD Spending Up $6 Billion In Major Prime Contracts

DOD spending in major prime contracts has increased by almost $6 billion during the first three quarters of FY 67 compared to the same period last fiscal year.

The increase from $23 to $28.7 billion was attributed for the most part to Southeast Asia operations.

The largest increase—$2.1 billion—was for aircraft, largely fighter and cargo planes and helicopters.

Prime contract awards for naval vessels such as escort ships and landing craft was up $900 million, as were total services, mostly for air and sea transportation, which increased $800 million.

Two minus signs in DOD statistics showed tank and automotive procurement down $146 million and a $65 million drop for Construction.

Army, Air Force Share Top Honors In 1966 American Heritage Contest

The Army and Air Force divided honors in the 1966 American Heritage contest for Service newspapers, radio stations and television stations, winning two awards apiece in the inter-service competition conducted by the foundation and co-sponsored by Reader's Digest.

Air Force winners were Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., for the Bolling Beam in the newspaper classification and O. L. A Detachment 7, 7122d Support Squadron (AFRTS-USAFE), Iraklion Air Station, Crete, in radio-television competition.

The Army's winners were Southern European Network, Italy, in radio competition and Headquarters, U. S. Army, Japan, special award category for a series of radio programs.

The awards were presented May 12 at a luncheon at Williamsburg Conference Center, Williamsburg, Virginia. Speakers at the awards ceremony were Lt. Gen. James B. Lampert, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, and John Allen, Senior Editor for Reader's Digest. John C. Broger, Director of Armed Forces Information and Education, was master of ceremonies.

COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE—Navy Adm. U. S. G. Sharp, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, greets RAdm. Theodore J. Fabik, Commander of Coast Guard's Western Area (right), while Adm. W. J. Smith, Coast Guard Commandant, (center) looks on. Adm. Smith, accompanied by RAdm. Fabik, visited CINCPAC headquarters while enroute to inspection tour of Pacific area, including Southeast Asia. Following the meeting with Adm. Sharp, the Coast Guard officials attended military briefings at CINCPAC command center.

Air Force Starts Program To Train Marine Pilots

Beginning in June, Air Force will embark on a three-year program to train 100 Marine Corps pilots annually. About 16 Marine student pilots will enter training every six weeks.

Department of Defense requested the Air Force to train Marine Corps pilots "to meet projected requirements for the 1969 period and beyond."

In FY 1969, the Naval Air Training Command will produce 673 Marine Corps pilots. These are in addition to the 100 receiving Air Force training. The combined training represents a total increase of about 200 pilots over the FY 1968 production.

Marines participating in this training will receive regular Air Force course of instruction. All will be commissioned officers.

Training will be conducted at USAF Air Training Command Undergraduate Pilot Training bases, to be announced later. There are nine UPT bases.

Washington Memos

WOMEN NAVY NURSES have been authorized to serve ashore in Vietnam for the first time by the Chief of Naval Operations with the first contingent expected at the Da Nang Station Hospital around Aug. 1. Women nurses are currently serving aboard two hospital ships in Southeast Asian waters.

AN ADDITIONAL FIVE F-5A Freedom Fighters have been delivered to the Republic of Korea Air Force. This was first shipment of F-5A aircraft delivered to Korea this year through U.S. Military Assistance Program. First delivery of F-5s to ROKAF was received in April 1965. The 6146th Air Force Advisory Group in Seoul aids the Korean Air Force in its operations of the supersonic aircraft.

DOD HAS ANNOUNCED appointment of Lt. Col. Marie Kehrer as WAC Deputy Director, effective Aug. 1. She replaces Lt. Col. Mary E. Kelly, who retires July 31. Col. Kehrer is presently with Office, Special Asst. for Congressional Affairs, Hqs, Army Materiel Command, Washington, D. C.

ON JULY FIRST, Brig. Gen. Edward B. Giller, USAF, will become Director of Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Military Application. He succeeds Brig. Gen. Delmar L. Crowson, USAF, who is retiring.

WAF DIRECTOR COL. Jeanne M. Holm will visit members of the Women's Royal Air Force at RAF stations in England, May 16-25. She is also scheduled to visit WAF in England before stopping at the new Supreme Hq Allied Powers Europe at Casteau, Belgium. Before returning to Washington, D. C., Col. Holm will meet with officials at USAFE, Wiesbaden, Germany, and WAF at Ramstein AB, Germany.

THIRTY MARINE CORPS officers, ranging in rank from lieutenant colonel to second lieutenant, have been selected to participate in the College Degree Program. Officers were chosen by a special selection board which annually picks deserving and well-qualified officers to further their education.

HUGHES TROPHY was presented to 2nd Lt. Larry Dean Estridge by Under Secretary of Army David E. McGiffert. Estridge, a 1966 graduate of Furman University, was selected as outstanding cadet from among 10,104 Army ROTC graduates commissioned in 1966. Hughes Trophy is perpetual award created by Hughes Aircraft Co., and U.S. Army and awarded annually to outstanding ROTC graduate.

PUBLIC HOLDINGS of Series E and H U.S. Savings Bonds gained $99 million in April, Treasury Department officials reported. Cash sales of Series E and H bonds during month totaled $394 million, while redemptions at cost price were $351 million, leaving a net increase, at cost price, of $43 million. E and H sales during month declined $33 million or 7.7 percent from last April's 11-year record of $426 million.

SOME 117 YOUTHS from 18 foreign countries will participate in this year's Civil Air Patrol's International Air Cadet Exchange which gets underway in July. The same number of CAP cadets from the U.S. will visit the European, Near Eastern, Central and South American homelands of their counterparts.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and Space Administration has awarded a $500,000 contract to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., for study of an advanced control guidance and navigation system for long-range manned missions beyond Project Apollo. Under contract's terms, MIT's Division of Sponsored Research will study, develop, and laboratory test advanced guidance and navigation techniques to support extended manned missions from 28 days to a year or more.

FIFTY-NINE MILITARY planners from Army, Navy and Air Force met at Elmendorf Air Force Base to coordinate Alaskan Command's 1967 summer Exercise Northern Sun. To be held in August, Exercise Northern Sun will encompass units from U.S. Strike Command, Air Force Strike Command, Minnesota National Guard, Military Airlift Command, U.S. Army, Alaska, and Alaskan Air Command.

A SECOND B-58 Hustler supersonic bomber has logged more than 2,000 hours flying time. The aircraft is assigned to the 305th Bomb Wing, Bunker Hill AFB, Ind. Piloting the bomber on this latest milestone was Col. Howard J. Fry, wing commander. TSgt. Bobby J. Hulsey has been aircraft crew chief for more than four years, logging more than 2,000 hours in ground maintenance time.

ARMY WAR COLLEGE was presented Army Distinguished Service School Award for more than 50 years' outstanding contribution to education and training of Armed Services personnel. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson made presentation at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

AIR FORCE-WIDE labor management relations seminar for major commands was held at USAF Personnel Development Center, Maxwell AFB, Ala. Purpose of three-day seminar was to consider federal and Air Force labor relations developments in hopes of improving day-by-day labor management relations.

MAJOR GENERAL Henry G. Thorne Jr., Commander, 12th Air Force, will become vice commander of nationwide Continental Air Command on July 15. Gen. Thorne will succeed Maj. Gen. J. S. Holtoner, who retired in January.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Air Force, Navy Officials Issue Statement Supporting F-111 Aircraft

Top Air Force and Navy officials have restated their views about the capability of the F-111 as compared to other tactical aircraft.

In response to questions, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell issued a joint statement, followed by a statement by Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze.

Air Force officials said: "The F-111A is designed to provide an all-weather strike potential superior to that of any tactical aircraft in the world today. It will fly faster, farther and carry a greater payload, nuclear or conventional, with an unexcelled capability to penetrate sophisticated enemy defenses."

Secretary Brown and General McConnell pointed out that the operational F-111A will provide vitally-needed capabilities, and will meet the military requirements established for the aircraft at the inception of the program.

The F-111A will also be able to deploy to overseas areas without tanker support and be able to operate from short, semi-prepared runways with a minimum of support facilities.

Secretary Nitze explained that development of a system as complex as the Navy's F-111B/Phoenix has produced sizeable engineering problems.

"I continue to be impressed with the manner in which they have been met and overcome," he said.

He noted that changes proposed by the Navy, and approved by the Secretary of Defense, are being implemented. Secretary Nitze said the changes, "will make the F-111B suitable for operation from our first-line attack carriers and will give it the capabilities to perform its mission."

Air Force Awards Study Contracts On A-X Close Air Support Aircraft

Air Force has awarded four study contracts of approximately $232,500 each for preliminary design and other studies of the A-X specialized close air support aircraft.

The A-X is expected to be cheaper and simpler than the A-7 Corsair II, but with capabilities equal to or better than the A-1 Skyraider. It was explained that the A-X performance would overlap that of the OV-10 at the lower end of its capabilities, and the A-7 at the upper end.

The new aircraft, it was noted, should be able to operate from medium-length prepared runways at maximum gross weight, or from short airstrips with a reduced payload. It would require a moderately high cruise speed for quick reaction time and a low speed necessary for attack and re-attack agility.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE—Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell (left) awards the Distinguished Service Medal to Gen. Raymond J. Reeves, Commander-in-Chief, North American Air Defense and Continental Air Defense Command, during recent Pentagon ceremonies. Gen. Reeves was cited for exceptionally meritorious services while Commander-in-Chief, Alaskan Air Command, from Aug. 1, 1963, to July 31, 1966.

Army Unveils Prototype Of 'Cheyenne' Helicopter

Army's "Cheyenne" AH-56A, a radically new winged combat rotorcraft, was unveiled on schedule at a rollout May 3 in the Van Nuys plant, Lockheed-California Company, as the first of 10 prototypes the firm is building for Aviation Materiel Command.

"Cheyenne," according to DOD announcement, is designed for top speed exceeding 250 miles-per-hour, nearly twice that of current combat helicopters in Vietnam. It will escort troop-carrying helicopters and be used to direct fire support missions.

The heavily armed, agile aircraft, will be able to dash suddenly from its convoy to hover and fire on a surprise target and then return to its escort position.

It will be able to make a complete turn in a radius far less than present combat helicopters and in less time. The large, bubble canopy gives the two-man crew wide visibility. The crew is protected by armor plate.

The crew can ferry the unloaded aircraft across the United States nonstop. It can be ferried across the Pacific Ocean from California, with fueling stops at Hawaii and Guam.

AH-56A is one of the first major weapons systems originated under DOD's contract definition concept. This includes Phase I contract definition, Phase II engineering development and Phase III production.

Army Secretary Resor Kicks Off Bond Campaign

Defense Department civilian employees buy 62 percent of all United States Savings Bonds sold each year to federal workers or roughly $560 of $900 million worth of bonds, Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor told a May 8 Pentagon bond rally to kick off this year's campaign.

This year's drive features higher interest bearing (4.74% at 4½ years maturity) "Freedom Share" bond which must be purchased on a payroll savings or bank deduction program in matching amounts with current Series E bonds bought on deduction plans.

First C-5As Will Go To Altus AFB, Oklahoma

First increment of C-5A jet transports to enter Air Force inventory will be assigned to a Military Airlift Command Transitional Training Unit at Altus AFB, Okla.

Flight crew training is tentatively scheduled to begin in late 1969. On July 1, 1969, Altus AFB will be transferred from Strategic Air Command control to MAC.

Japanese Navy Squadron To Visit United States

A Japanese naval squadron with 151 young ensigns aboard four destroyer-type vessels will pay an extended "summer cruise" visit this summer and fall to both the east and west coast of the United States.

The ensigns are capping five years of schooling with visits to Annapolis and New York City in August and September.

The 1,100 officers and men under RAdm Seizaburo Hoshino will first visit in July such west coast ports as Anchorage, Alaska, and San Diego, Calif.

The squadron, from Japan's Naval Defense Self Defense Force, also will visit other ports in Canada, the Canal Zone, Hawaii and Midway.

PARTING HONORS—Maj. Gen. R. G. Fergusson (left), departing Ft. Ord commanding general, receives congratulations from Lt. Gen. James L. Richardson, CG, Sixth U.S. Army, who awarded Gen. Fergusson the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit during a farewell review.

President Praises Incentive Award Effort Of Service Members

President Johnson has singled out members of the armed forces for their participation in the "Incentive Awards" program in a message to Congress.

Of about 141,000 suggestions submitted by servicemen in FY 66, about 25,700 were adopted, with cash awards totalling $378,000 and savings to the government amounting to more than $33 million.

The chief executive noted that the Incentive Award program available to civilian employees for many years was extended to servicemen by Congress as recently as 1965.

"These reports provide further evidence of the great service being rendered to the American people by the members of our armed forces," the President said.

"They man our defenses with unsurpassed skill and courage; they also bring new economy and efficiency to the operations of their government," he concluded.

Army Nurse, Engineer Win 1966 Pace Award

A senior Army nurse and a civilian engineer employed by the Army received the fifth annual Pace Award during ceremonies at the Pentagon May 5.

Lieutenant Colonel Patricia T. Murphy, Executive Project Officer, Office of the Surgeon General, and Carleton H. Gray, an electronics engineer with the Directorate of Civil Works, Office of the Chief of Engineers, received the awards from former Secretary of the Army Frank Pace Jr.

The award recognizes a staff officer and a civilian who made outstanding contributions to the Army during the previous year.

Lt. Col. Murphy was recognized for her contributions to the Medical Unit, Self-Contained Transportable (MUST) Program. She was responsible for the design, development and standardization of the patient-care aspects of the field medical equipment which was introduced in Vietnam in November of last year.

Gray, a consultant and adviser on radio, radar and other electronic communications and recording equipment, was cited for development and design of a completely integrated system of radar and radio service for safer and more efficient dispatch and control of water borne traffic through Cape Cod Canal, a sea-level waterway supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers.

First Modified 'Provider' Transport Arrives in RVN

First modified C-123 Provider assault transport, featuring two auxiliary jet engines, has arrived at Tan Son Nhut AB for service in Vietnam.

Some 75 more of the modified Providers are expected by the end of this year.

The modified K-model Provider requires less runway and carries about one-third more payload than the B-model.

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